

LETTER
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RECOMMENDING

Increase of force in the office of the Commissioner of Railroads.

JANUARY 25, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 23, 1886.

SIR: Under the requirements of the law creating the office of Commissioner of Railroads, and the duties devolved upon that office and the Secretary of the Interior, I beg leave to represent that, in order to a proper compliance therewith, an increase of the force in that office is absolutely necessary, and that with an adequate force the financial interests of the Government would be subserved and a better understanding arrived at between bonded and land-grant railroads and their relations and responsibility to the Government.

It has been found impracticable with the present force to secure the information necessary to such relation and understanding, and to procure and prepare concise and specific reports, the present force being barely sufficient for the current business of the office.

It is not deemed advisable that specific grades and salaries should be appropriated for, as in the case of the permanent force of most offices of the Government, but that a bulk appropriation should be made of from \$15,000 to \$20,000, for the employment of appropriate force in various and specific lines of investigation, at such times and at such rates as might be deemed best.

If such an appropriation be made, it should be made available as soon as practicable, to the end that the service desired may be utilized during the current year's business.

Very respectfully,

L. Q. C. LAMAR,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE PRO TEMPORE.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

January 1, 1900

My Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th inst. in relation to the matter of the proposed extension of the public lands in the State of California. The Department is at present engaged in a study of the subject, and it is hoped that a final decision will be reached in the near future. In the meantime, the Department is unable to take any action on the matter.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. M. Smith,
Secretary of the Interior.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR